

WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
Official Minutes for the
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2003
1:30 P.M.

Corrections approved 01-27-2003 are in bold and parenthesis

- Item No. 1 CALL TO ORDER BY JUDGE LOUIS H. BRUNI
Let it be remembered that a special meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:30 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:
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| Louis H. Bruni | County Judge |
| Felix Velasquez | Commissioner, Pct. 3 |
| David Cortez | Commissioner, Pct. 4 |
- Absent was Commissioner Jerry Vasquez, Pct. 1 and Commissioner Judith Gutierrez, Pct. 2
- Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 10th of January 2003. Present also were Ms. Nora Elia Prado, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.
- Item No. 4 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Judge Louis Bruni
- Item No. 2 ROLL CALL – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk
- Item No. 5 Approval of Minutes, January 6, 2003
- Cmr. Vasquez arrives.
- Cmr. Velasquez made the motion to approve minutes with correction on first page due there was no invocation at meeting held on 01-06-2003. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion. All voted "Aye" in favor to approve. Motion carried 4 to 0. Cmr. Gutierrez not present for motion.

Item No. 7

Discussion and possible action regarding Cause Number 2001-CVQ-001523-D2, Webb County, Texas by and through its Commissioners Court vs. Juan Garza individually and in his capacity as Sheriff of Webb County, Texas, in the 111th Judicial District of Webb County , Texas. **[The Commissioners Court may meet in a Closed Meeting pursuant to Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.07 of the Texas Government Code, to consultation with their attorney.]**

Deferment to County Attorney Homero Ramirez as to his opinions on said lawsuit. Mr. Ramirez states that he cannot comment on said lawsuit due he is not the attorney representing Webb County in this matter. States attorney in this matter is Mr. Alison who was not present but would be available via teleconference. Judge Bruni stated that he would advise Mr. Alison to drop lawsuit against Sheriff Juan Garza due it was politically motivated and was a waste of taxpayers money.

Cmr. Cortez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he did not agree with pursuing a lawsuit in the first place and that he regretted the amount of attorney's fees that the county has had to pay until now. **Cmr. Gutierrez arrived late after meeting with the District Attorney.** Cmr. Vasquez stated that the message that the lawsuit was sending to taxpayers was that the county would not lose any monies or revenues from federal prisoners that were being turned away or released to other prisons because the county denied the sheriff that raise that he was requesting. This is the reason that Cmr. Vasquez would be voting against dropping the lawsuit. Cmr. Vasquez stated that he was not the Sheriff's Commissioner, but the People's Commissioner. Cmr. Cortez commented that he has never been afraid of anyone or intimidated by anyone and that he will do what is right for the taxpayers, elected officials and the court. Cmr. Cortez stated that he is a friend of the sheriff but that even if it was someone else, he would still vote to drop the lawsuit. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she too was against the lawsuit from the beginning and states that the lawsuit was the wrong action to take. Motion carried 4-1 with Cmr. Vasquez voting against.

Judge Bruni stated that members of the public who wish to

address the court will need to fill out a witness card and will be allowed three (3) minutes to address the court.

ITEM NO. 8

Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution and order authorizing and designating Webb County Judge Louis H. Bruni, Judith G. Gutierrez, Cmr. Pct. 2 and David R. Cortez, Cmr. Pct. 4, as authorized signatory on the following grant funded projects:

- a. Texas Community Development Program TCDP Contract #720155 (Tanquesitos I Sanitary Sewer Collection System)
- b. Texas Community Development Program TCDP Contract #721105 (Webb County Right-of-Way Acquisition)
- c. Texas Community Development Program TCDP Contract #720889 (Los Corralitos Water Improvement; Bruni Community Center)
- d. Texas Community Development Program TCDP Contract #721859 (Penitas West Community Center, Mirando City Community Center Expansion, and Oilton Water Tank)
- e. Texas Community Development Program TCDP Contract #721175 (Webb County 2002 EDAP Project – Colonia Old Milwaukee and Colonia Tanquesitos I)
- f. Texas Community Development Project TCDP Contract #721003 (Self-Help Project)

Cmr. Velasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

ITEM NO. 9

Discussion and possible action to fill slot 1913 (clerk) at the Welfare-to-Work department at \$8.25 per hour and slot 1912 (Neighborhood Initiative Coordinator) at an annual salary not to exceed \$25,000 at the Self-Help Center effective January 13, 2003. Both positions are

funded by grant funds and are at no cost to the county.

Cmr. Velasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted with discussion and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez asked that the Welfare-to-Work program give consideration to the employees that were dismissed recently.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

ITEM NO. 10

Discussion and possible action to submit a letter of commitment to the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense for the FY03 Discretionary Fund Grant Program for an Indigent Defense Coordinator for one year of funding of SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000) with the county to provide the second full year of funding in the same amount and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted with discussion and Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Gutierrez inquired as to who placed item on agenda so that they may further explain what will be required of the County for this item. Mr. Vargas stated that a grant application was written last month and is pending approval and Judge Elma Salinas Ender will explain more. Judge Ender is requesting possible funding for a coordinator for pre-trial services who would serve as a liaison between the different agencies that deal with indigent defendants. The County would commit to one year of funding after the initial year for the amount of \$75,000 as requested by the Texas Taskforce for Indigent Defense fund. Judge Ender states that due Mr. Vargas has been advised of the requirements needed in order to finalize grant, the approval of said grant is almost certain. This employee will work under t judges and will verify compliance with the Indigent Defense Act (IDA) as well as track statistics, maintains records and documents to verify compliance with IDA. After the end of the second year (funded by Webb County), the County is in no way required to continue this position unless it so desires. Cmr. Velasquez inquired as to whether the fringe benefits offered by the County would be provided by the grant for the first year. Judge Ender stated that the benefits would be included in the \$75,000 provided by the grant and the county. Judge Ender stated that they are hoping to attract qualified individuals,

preferably a lawyer, who in addition to the above duties would assist with legal research for the court judges.

Motion carries 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Velasquez reiterated that the county is in no way committed to keeping the position after the second year funded by Webb County. Judge Ender stated that hopefully by then, the position would justify itself and would remain.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to move up items #43 and #44
Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 43

Discussion and possible action on changes in the County Voting Precincts the reapportionment or other changes in the Commissioners Court Precincts. The Court will take testimony from interested parties.

Mr. Orlando Rios and Mr. **(George Korbel)**, attorney's-at-law who specialize in redistricting and were previously hired by Webb County as redistricting consultants. Mr. Rios is present today to request a change in the districts of Webb County dealing with Precinct **(3)** and Precinct 4. He states that the redistricting will not violate any laws and is in compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Cmr. Velasquez is concerned about the cost of these changes. Mr. Rios stated that this is a part of the fees that were paid to their law firm for the redistricting done before the last election.

Motion by Cmr. Velasquez to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Vasquez called for discussion and clarification that item is an action item to be approved not to be discussed further. Cmr. Gutierrez questioned the change in the population between the precincts. Mr. Rios stated that the variance between the precincts would remain within 10% top **(to)** bottom deviation required by law. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she voted for the best plan with the least amount of variances between the precincts which is what was done before the election. The variance between precincts as of today is 2.24% but will change to 5.30% if motion is approved. Mr. Rios stated that the numbers that they are working with now are from the post election review of the number of voters in the precincts.

Motion passed 4-1 with Cmr. Gutierrez opposing.

Cmr. Cortez stated that even though everyone has different views, that everyone should vote with their conscience. He stated that compassionate commissioners should not just look at the black and white but also to look at those who are affected by their decisions. He stated that the previous redistricting was politically motivated to move the boundaries of his precinct so that his home would be outside the boundaries in order to prevent him from running for commissioner. He states that he is now happy to be able to return to the place he has called home for more than 40 years.

ITEM NO. 44

Discussion and possible action on employment of legal counsel to represent Webb County relating to the changes which may be adopted in the voting precincts and Commissioners Precincts before the Department of Justice to secure compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (as amended). This will include but not limited to preparation and submission of these changes to the Department of Justice.

Let record show that Item # 44 is part of #43 and that if approved, it will reauthorize employment, at no cost, to Mr. Rios and Mr. Horble.

Cmr. Cortez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned for Item #45 to be moved up. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent. Item #45 moved up.

Item No. 45

Discussion and possible action to appoint Judge Jesus Garza Chair of the "Youth Village" Committee, with the authority to appoint memberships thereto, to study the possibility of recommending a more appropriate and cost effective site and other related matters and update the Commissioners Court within 30 days.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Judge Bruni motioned to move up Item No. 49

Cmr. Velasquez made the motion to move up Item No. 49 and

Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 49

Discussion and possible action to adjust salaries of the following positions in Fund 001-0300 County Treasurer, Fund 001-1120 County Clerk, and Fund 008-0101 Records Management, and any matters incident thereto.

Fund 001-0300

Slot	Position	Hourly	Salary
072	Executive Administrator		\$52,700.00
076	Operations Clerk 1	\$10.14	\$21,122.64
081	Fiscal Analyst	\$9.97	\$20,738.08
082	Secretary Clerk	\$9.35	\$19,456.80

Fund 001-1120

303	Chief Deputy Clerk		\$39618.50
304	Deputy Clerk Supervisor		\$27024.50
305	Deputy Clerk Supervisor		\$27024.50
306	Deputy Clerk	\$11.41	\$23726.90
307	Deputy Clerk	\$11.35	\$23610.16
309	Commissioners Court Recording Secretary	\$11.59	\$24114.64
312	Deputy Clerk	\$9.53	\$19822.80
313	Deputy Clerk	\$9.53	\$19822.80
314	Deputy Clerk	\$10.26	\$21342.60
315	Deputy Clerk	\$10.26	\$21342.60
642	Deputy Clerk	\$9.64	\$20061.36
643	Deputy Clerk	\$9.64	\$20061.36

Fund 008-0101

1738	Records Imaging Specialist	\$8.32	\$17313.92
1739	Records Imaging Specialist	\$8.32	\$17313.92
1878	Cashier	\$7.92	\$16473.60

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she needed to know if the Commissioners Court could take action on this matter today or if there was some procedure that they would have to follow. Deferment to County Attorney Homero Ramirez who states that all items approved in the budget can be changed by Commissioners Court due all personnel positions are set up as line items, therefore the Commissioners Court may add, delete or alter any employment positions. Mr. Ramirez stated that changes to the employment positions in departments run by elected officials without a reasonable basis or consent of the elected official can result in subject to action due the Commissioners Court acted outside its discretion. Mr. Ramirez stated that any intended actions must be clearly articulated and must be reasonable and cannot be arbitrary or capricious. He advised the court that an action such as this should be directed in a general fashion and not single out two offices. The reason that they are new employees is not a sufficient reason to lower the salaries of these employees and he would advise the court to table the matter until they have had more time to discuss and look at the possible repercussions that their actions may cause. Mr. Armando Trevino, attorney at law representing County Treasurer Delia Perales, stated that he agreed with Mr. Ramirez that the action be tabled until the court becomes fully aware of the criminal and civil liabilities that it opens itself to if this action is approved. He stated that if this matter was approved, the court can be certain that Ms. Perales will take action against the court and that he was almost certain that Mrs. Margie Ibarra, County Clerk, would take action as well. District Attorney Joe Rubio also advised the Court to table this matter until the legalities of this issue have been researched. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she brought this item to the court due many employees that were dismissed had worked for the county for over 15 years and had been given a longevity raise in this year's budget and that she did not believe that someone who has just begun with the county to earn as much as someone who worked for over 15 years because they are now in that person's slot. Judge Bruni agrees that it is not fair for these people to work for over 15 years and then be dismissed and have someone new come in and earn the same amount that they were earning. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, advised the court that her new staff has been working very hard and that in the 7 days that they have been working, they have recorded over 1300 documents and have brought in over \$50,000 to the county in recordings only, \$2,500 which is for records management purposes only. She asked the court if they were trying to

penalize her employees for doing their jobs or if this proposed action would affect the entire employees of Webb County. She stated that she had worked for the County for over 23 years and she had last worked with the County Indigent Program and that if the person that was going to take her place would also be taking a pay cut because they were also a new employee. Judge Bruni stated that he would not comment or go against the advice of the attorneys present.

Comr. Vasquez motioned to table the item with discussion. Comr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Comr. Vasquez stated that he supported the employees of the County Clerk's office and the Treasurer's office. He stated that everyone, including himself and Comr. Gutierrez have benefited from someone else's pay raise. He stated that he benefited from the raise given to former Comr. Jorge O. De La Garza, just as Comr. Gutierrez benefited from the raise given to former Comr. Roque Vela. He also stated "What's good for the goose is good for the gander" and called for the question. Comr. Gutierrez stated that something needed to be done because in Webb County there are not merit raises, only those done across the board. It doesn't matter whether you work or not, everyone gets the same percentage raise. Judge Bruni stated that he wanted to do what was fair for everybody. District Attorney Rubio stated that the item needed to be studied and that he will work with Comr. Gutierrez to find a solution. Comr. Gutierrez states that this was long overdue and she requested a time to come back with this issue. Mr. Rubio stated that he would suggest a thirty (30) day time frame to return to the court with some sort of solution to this matter. Comr. Cortez stated that every department was given a budget and as long as they stay within budget, what they do with the money is fine with him. He also states that the longevity raise that was given to former employees should be returned to the County. Mr. Trevino stated that this item should have been resolved 20 years ago. Comr. Gutierrez stated that now that this item has been brought forward, it will stay there until it is resolved.

Motion to table the item carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, requested for Item No. 21 be moved up due she needs to be in College Station by tonight. Judge Bruni entertained motion to move item. Motion by Comr. Gutierrez to move up Item No. 21. Comr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carries 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 21 Discussion and possible action to designate the composition of the Salary Grievance Committee as the Webb County Sheriff, County Tax Assessor Collector, County Treasurer, County Clerk, County Attorney, and four public members **or** nine public members only.

Cmr. Cortez stated that due there are very few committees in which the public is able to actively participate in county government, he moves that the Salary Grievance Committee be composed of nine (9) public members.

Cmr. Cortez motioned for nine (9) public members to form the Salary Grievance Committee. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Items will now be called in their respective order as per Agenda. Judge Bruni stated that Item No. 6 was skipped so that Item will be next.

Item No. 6 Approval of bills, payroll, and monthly reports

Judge Bruni advised persons giving reports to make reports brief, only mentioning the highlights and if the Court has any additional questions or needs more information, they will ask for it. Ms. Delia Perales, county Treasurer, presented the bills and payroll that needed to be approved for payment. Judge Bruni requested that she present only grand totals due court had copy of individual payments for reference.

Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that Court needed to hear report from the Auditors Department. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, submitted report and stated that reports are made and issued to the Courts on a monthly bases and if hey have any questions, they can inquire with him. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she noticed that the Sales Tax Reports did not meet the projected Sales Tax Revenue listed in the Approved Budget by about 245 thousand dollars. Mr. Flores stated that the memorandum on page 24 of

the report shows that as of 12-31-02, the county Sales Tax Revenue was 245 thousand dollars short and that the County could look as to where they could make some cuts. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she was worried that the fund balance would be affected if the revenues continue to drop and if revenues continued to drop at the same rate, they would need to modify the numbers for next year's budget. Cmr. Velasquez stated that he was also concerned about the dropping revenues and he also requested the County Auditor submit the report at least three to four days before the Commissioners Court meeting in order to be able to further study the report so that they can be able to ask concise and detailed questions. Cmr. Velasquez also requested a detailed ledger of the General Fund so that the court may know how the money is being spent. Cmr. Cortez stated that he had questions on some items listed in the report. Cmr. Cortez stated that the report showed the water utilities department with a balance of negative 1.5 million dollars and he wanted to know what happened. Mr. Flores stated that the department had made several improvements without having the revenue needed to cover their expenditures. He stated that there is a plan in place in which within 3-4 years, the deficit will be covered due to the addition on people using the services. Cmr. Cortez also stated that the health insurance fund was in a deficit of 284 thousand dollars. As per Mr. Flores, this is from beginning the current budget year until present and that if the this rate continues, the health insurance fund will be in a deficit of approximately 1 million dollars at the end of this fiscal year. If that is the case, the money will either need to come from other departments or funds with a positive fund balance or from the General Fund. Cmr. Cortez stated that the Sheriff's Department was under-budget 260 thousand dollars. Mr. Flores stated that was correct. Judge Bruni advised Mr. Flores that his administration and this court will not wait 3-4 months for the adopted budget to be completed. He is advising Mr. Flores that the adopted budget will be submitted to his office within 30 days after it has been approved. Mr. Flores stated that all reports will be sent as soon as they are completed.

Item No. 11

Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution and order to amend authorized representative signatures regarding the investment of TexPool accounts.

Cmr. Velasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 12

Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to award/reject the following bids:

Bid Number	Item	Purchasing Agent Recommendation
a. 2003-23	Two (2) Dump Trucks	FleetPride
b. 2003-24	One (1) Waste Collection Truck	FleetPride (Alternate Bid)
c. 2003-25	One (1) Septic Tank Truck	FleetPride
d. 2003-26	One (1) Haul Truck	FleetPride

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Webb County Purchasing Department, notified court that bids had been taken on the above items and that the company listed was being recommended by the Webb County Purchasing Agent.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 13

Discussion and possible action to authorize Sunbelt Air conditioning to remove the two(2) Evaporators located at the Veterans Office (Former Management Information System Department). [Purchasing Agent Comment: The salvage value of the evaporators will offset the cost of removal of these two (2) units.]

Cmr. Velasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted with discussion and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez inquired as to cost of removing evaporators. Mr. Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, advised court that there is no cost to the county for the removal of the two evaporators.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 14

Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the Parks and Grounds Department and Justice Center and purchase from Dell Computers

equipment for the County Attorney from capital outlay as follows:

Department	Commodity	Amount
Parks and Grounds Dept.	One(1) Dump Truck	Solicit Bid
Justice Center	Public Address System	Solicit Bid
County Attorney	Computers/printers	\$23,4000.00

Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 15 Discussion and possible action to accept System Benefit Fund Grant in the amount of TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$263,773) from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, (TDHCA), for FY 2003 and approve the budget proposed by the Community Action Agency Director.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 16 Discussion and possible action to modify slot 1160 (Center Aide) from part-time temporary to full-time temporary at \$8.25 per hour effective January 13, 2002. Funding source is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 17 Discussion and possible action to modify slot 1810 (H.V.A.C. Labor/Installer, Temporary at \$6.50 per hour) to Heating and Cooling Assessor, full-time, at \$9.00 per hour effective January 13, 2002. Funding source is the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Grant (CEAP)

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted

and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez pointed out that the corrected date should show January 13, 2003 instead of January 13, 2002

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 18 Discussion and possible action to call an election on January 28, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. in the Rio Bravo, Texas (Area IX) for seats on the Community Action Agency Advisory Board, designated "Category B – Community Representatives" as required by state regulations, specifically State Mandate #2002-2.3, and to be conducted in accordance with CAA Bylaws approved by Webb County Commissioners Court.

Item No. 19 Discussion and possible action to approve representatives to the Community Action Agency Advisory Board, "Category A – Elected Officials," being representatives of Webb County Judge Louis H. Bruni, Commissioner David Cortez to fill current vacancies left by appointees of former administration and as per State mandate #2002-2.3, and the CAA Bylaws.

Item No. 20 Discussion and possible action to fill slot 1130 (Bus Driver) full-time at \$8.57 per hour effective January 13, 2003. Funding source is the El Aguila Rural Transportation Program.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve Items No. 18-20. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 22 Discussion and possible action to fill slots 1678 and 1683, Drill Instructors, at \$10.70 per hour and slots 346 and 1975, Detention Officers, at \$10.90 per hour effective February 6, 2003.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

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| Item No. 23 | <p>Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution and order for each of the grants currently funded by the Criminal Justice Division notifying of change in grant official effective January 1, 2003</p> <p>Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.</p> |
| Item No. 24 | <p>Discussion and possible action to appoint an administrator for Webb County's Sick Leave Pool Program.</p> <p>Ms. Juanita Puente, Risk Manager, was present to request the Commissioners Court appoint an administrator for the Sick Leave Pool as required by the Sick Leave Pool Policy. Ms. Puente also states that a request was made to meet with the Insurance Committee in order to revise the present policy to make it more employee friendly. She states that there are several applications but they are presently on hold until the policy is revised due the current policy's requirements for an administrator are extremely stringent. Cmr. Cortez advised Ms. Puente to appoint someone in her staff as temporary administrator until the policy matter is resolved. Ms. Puente advised Cmr. Cortez that the court must appoint someone for this position.</p> <p>Cmr. Cortez made the motion to appoint Ms. Juanita Puente as Sick Leave Pool Administrator and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent to appoint Ms. Juanita Puente as the Sick Leave Pool Administrator.</p> |
| Item No. 25 | <p>Discussion and possible action to enter into an interlocal Government Agreement with the City of Laredo for the formation of a Mutual Aid Law Enforcement Task Force to mutually assist in the areas of traffic control, crowd control and general law enforcement both within and beyond the corporate limits of the City of Laredo during the 2003 Crime Stoppers Menudo Bowl scheduled for January 25, 2003, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.</p> |
| Item No. 26 | <p>Discussion and possible action to enter into an interlocal</p> |

Government Agreement with the City of Laredo for the formation of a Mutual Aid Law Enforcement Task Force to mutually assist in the areas of traffic control, crowd control, and general law enforcement, both within and beyond the corporate limits of the City of Laredo during the Washington's Birthday Celebration festivities scheduled for February 13, 2003 through February 23, 2003, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned for both items 25 and 26 to be approved as submitted. Comr. Vasquez seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 27

Discussion and possible action to approve/ratify "Certifications Regarding Compliance with Plat Requirements and the Connection of Utilities," and authorizing utility connections issued by staff pursuant to authorization granted by the Commissioners Court on December 9, 2002, for the following properties:

- a. Connection(s) qualifying under Section 232.029 (i):
 - i. Lot 17, Block 11, Colorado Acres Subdivision, (electricity – one dwelling only)
 - ii. Lot 46, Ranchitos Los Nopalitos Subdivision, (electricity – one dwelling only)
 - iii. Tract 215, Las Lomas II Subdivision, (electricity – one dwelling only)
 - iv. Tract 240, Las Lomas II Subdivision, (electricity – one dwelling only)
 - v. Lot 26, Block 2, Los Altos Subdivision, (electricity – one dwelling only)
- b. Connection(s) qualifying under Section 232.028 a & b:
 - i. Lot 1 & 3, Block 85, Bruni Subdivision (electricity - one dwelling only)

Comr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Comr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 28 Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Women's Act program (Grant Number WF-03-V30-13952-04) in the amount of THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWELVE DOLLARS (\$31,112) and a County match of FOURTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE DOLLARS (\$14,193) for a Women's Legal Advocate, in-state travel, computer equipment and office supplies for the period beginning September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.
- Item No. 29 Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Women's Act program (Grant Number WF-03-V30-13509-04) in the amount of FORTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE (\$42,785) and a County match of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT (\$25,448) for a Prosecutor, in-state travel, computer equipment and office supplies for the period beginning September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.
- Item No. 30 Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Women's Act program (Grant Number WF-03-V30-13508-04) in the amount of SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY-ONE DOLLARS (\$73,191), and a County match of FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$56,724) for a Domestic Violence Counselor I and a Domestic Violence Counselor II both with fringe benefits, in-state travel, computer equipment and office supplies for the period beginning September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Item No. 31

Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Women's Act program (Grant Number VA-03-V30-13771-04) in the amount of THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$35,421) and a County match of TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$26,571) for an Investigator, in-state travel, computer equipment and office supplies for the period beginning September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Gutierrez requested to know if the County would need to appropriate funds to cover these grants. Ms. Alexandra Solis, the Domestic Violence Unit Chief Prosecutor, states that as with most grants, these began with 100% coverage by the grant and no match by the County but every year the County would be responsible for a larger share until the County would be responsible for 100%. She states that Items No 28-30 which are from VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) began with full coverage by the grant but is now at 80% funded and 20% County match. Item No. 31 which was incorrectly identified as a VAWA grant when it should be a VOCA (Victims Of Crime Act) is now at a 75% funded and 25% County match. These grants are for the FY 2003-2004 so they will be able to notify the Court with plenty of time as to what the County match will be for the next FY.

Motion carried 4 to 0. Cmr. Cortez stepped out before voting.

Item No. 32

Discussion and possible action to approve adding three (3) forfeiture vehicles to the Sheriff's Office Fleet:

1998 FORD /U TRUCK VIN#1FTZX1769WKC01301

1998 CHEVROLET P/U TRUCK VIN#1GCG29R1WE212789

1998 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN VIN#1GNEG13RWJ348316

	<p>Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion Motion carries 5-0 by unanimous consent</p>
Item No. 33	<p>Discussion and possible action to fill slot 1703, part-time substitute teacher (15 hours per week), effective January 13, 2003.</p> <p>Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.</p>
Item No. 34	<p>Discussion and possible action to fill slot 599 (Front Desk Coordinator) at \$9.01 per hour effective January 13, 2003.</p>
Item No. 35	<p>Discussion and possible action to fill slot 1891 (Claims Processor) at \$9.01 per hour effective January 13, 2003.</p> <p>Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve Items No. 34 & 35 as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.</p>
Item No. 36	<p>Discussion and possible action authorizing final payment to NAISMITH Engineering plus retainage in the amount of \$18,877.75 for the surveying and preparation of new parcel maps for the R.O.W. acquisition of Laredo Ranchettes, Ranchitos 359 and Pueblo Nuevo on HWY 359. The total amount of the contract was \$274,955.00. This project is funded by grant funds TCDP #721105, and bonds Series 2001 and Series 2002.</p> <p>Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion with discussion.</p> <p>Cmr. Velasquez requested that information regarding the funding of this project in order to verify that the funds had been set aside from this project from the bond Series 2001 and Series 2002.</p> <p>Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.</p>
Item No. 37	<p>Discussion and possible action to re-organize and transfer</p>

the supervision and responsibility of the golf course to the golf superintendent instead of the director of parks and recreation.

Cmr. Velasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 38

Discussion and possible action to reduce the senior citizen age for charging green fees at the Casa Blanca Golf Course from 65 to 55.

Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Gutierrez inquired as to the impact this decision would have on the budget due to the reduction of age for charging reduced fees. Cmr. Cortez stated that the revenue will probably go up because senior citizens will golf more since they pay less.

Cmr. Vasquez stepped out before question was called for.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Item No. 39

Discussion and possible action to approve requests for refunds as recommended by the Tax Assessor Collector as follows:

- a. Ricardo Prida Barrio
Reason: Clerical Error 25.25
Total refund: \$586.25
- b. EOG Resources (Minerals) c/o Ernst & Young LLP
Reason: Clerical Error 2.25
Total Refund: \$3,213.33
- c. Falcon International Bank
Attn: Betty Flores – Escrow Specialist
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$2,168.46
- d. First American Real Estate Tax Services

Attn: Lisa Davidson
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$863.92

e. First American Real Estate Tax Services
Attn: Lisa Davidson
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$1,142.80

f. First American Real Estate Tax Services
Attn: Lisa Davidson
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: 1,987.58

g. First American Real Estate Tax Services
Attn: Lisa Davidson
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$4,371.43

h. First American Real Estate Tax Services
Attn: Lisa Davidson
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$2,227.87

i. First American Real Estate Tax Services
Attn: Lisa Davidson
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$2,086.58

j. First American Real Estate Tax Services
Attn: Lisa Davidson
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$863.92

k. International Bank of Commerce
Attn: Irma V. Guajardo
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$1,336.09

l. Lereta Corporation
Attn: Tijisha Tillman Customer Service
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$2,391.91

m. Daniel Montes & Maria
Reason: Overpayment
Total Refund: \$611.01

n. Robert R. & Claudia Rosell
Reason: Duplicate Payment
Total Refund: \$803.02

o. Webb County Tax Office
Reason: Should have been credited to
Acct.# 800-21022-100
Total Refund: \$858.43

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve items 39-a thru 39-o as submitted and Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4 to 0, with Cmr. Vasquez not present for voting.

Item No. 40

Discussion and possible action to authorize the issuance of cellular telephones and allocate time to the following:

Webb County Judge Louis H. Bruni
Commissioner David R. Cortez
Mr. Raul Casso, Chief of Staff
Deputy Frank Sciaraffa, Court Bailiff

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4 to 0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present for voting.

Item No. 41

Discussion and possible action to appoint Commissioner Felix Velasquez to the Webb County Purchasing Board in place of Commissioner Gerardo "Jerry" Vasquez and any matters incident thereto.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. **(Vasquez)** seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 to 0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present for voting.

Item No. 42

Discussion and possible action to amend Commissioners Court Order setting the Term of the Court by changing the meeting time from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 46 Discussion and possible action to suspend the Youth Village project until a new location site has been determined by the newly appointed committee.

Item No. 47 Discussion and possible action to suspend the 5th Bridge consultants' contracts listed below until the presidential permit is approved.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| a. Charlie Black, BKSH & Associates | \$12,500 mo. |
| b. Robby R. Allyn, Allyn & Company | \$12,500 mo. |
| c. James B. Francis, Francis Enterprises, Inc. | \$12,500 mo. |
| d. Stephen Gibson, Gibson Gonzalez Associates | \$12,500 mo. |

Cmr. Vasquez made the motion to approve item as submitted and Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Deferment to Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, recommended to the Court to speak with the contractors in regards to the suspension due the contract that they have with them does not state the proper procedure to follow for a suspension. Because the Court will be working with these individuals after the suspension, Mr. Ramirez advised the Court to keep the contractors informed as to what the County's next step in this matter will be. Judge Bruni stated that the old location is gone and that he would meet with the contractors to see if any of the plans being made are not site specific or if all of the plans are. Mr. Ramirez recommended the Court to table the matter until further information has been attained. Cmr. Cortez stated that the County has been spending almost \$50,000 a month on these contractors and the County has gotten nowhere on the 5th Bridge. Cmr. Vasquez advised the Court that item being discussed was Item No. 46, not No. 47.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to move up Item No. 47 with No. 46 since they both dealt with suspension of contracts. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Cortez stated that he does not want to continue payments until further notice and motions to suspend contracts and

payments immediately if possible. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated he had some concerns as to the monies that have been spent already and believes that the contracts **(should be)** terminated. Cmr. Cortez stated that Cmr. Velasquez and himself have been researching this item and believe that the contracts should be suspended and terminated if possible. Judge Bruni stated that all contracts will be suspended and that a decision will be made as to whether or not continue the services of these contractors within 30 days. Mr. Homero Ramirez urged the Court to table item until further information is given.

Cmr. Cortez made the motion to table the item **(#46 & #47)** and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent to table Item No. 46 and Item No. 47.

Item No. 48

Status report on Justice of the Peace Building in South Laredo for J.P. Santos Benavides and J.P. Ricardo Rangel.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she place tem on agenda at the request of J.P. Benavides and J.P. Rangel. Motioned to move item to next meeting due no one was present to give report. No action on this matter.

Item No. 50

Adjournment

Judge Bruni thanked everyone who attended the meeting and encouraged Department heads to attend all regular and special meetings in case there are any questions dealing with their departments. He stated that if there was no further business, he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Cmr. Gutierrez made the motion to adjourn and Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 to 0 by unanimous consent.